



**EDDIE A. PEREZ**  
Mayor

# CITY OF HARTFORD

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**LILLIAN I. RUIZ**  
Director

Commission on Disability Issues, City of Hartford

Regular Meeting Minutes, December 2, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 5:47 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Office of Human Relations of City Hall, 550 Main Street, Hartford, CT.

**PRESENT:** Tammy Boutin, Sign –language interpreter, Chris Kelly, Candace Low, Kathy Pacelle, Glaisma Perez-Silva, Debra St Germain, Vice-Chair, Janet Wallans, Chair and Cheryl Zeiner, Secretary.

**EXCUSED:** Maria Cerniauskas-Upton, Kathy Marseglia and Linda Schnitzer

**STAFF:** Gil Cortez

Prior to the start of the meeting, Gil announced that Glaisma Perez-Silva, LD Specialist at Capital Community College had been appointed as a new Commissioner and tonight would be her first meeting. She had attended the event in October and submitted her paperwork immediately after showing an interest and been involved in the Commission. Captain Taylor's application was also discussed. There is some concern that he is a city employee and this may open the floodgates for other city employees who may want to join commissions and boards. A closed-door meeting will take place in the Mayor's office on 12/3 with a representative of the Mayor to discuss the appointment.

Introductions took place including the introduction of the new Commissioner, Glaisma Perez-Silva.

The minutes of the 11/09 meeting were reviewed. Candace made one correction on page 3. It should have read that there is a movement to setup 5 Aging and Disability Resource Centers. A motion was made by Debra and seconded by Candace that the minutes be accepted with the correction. The motion was carried.

Janet and Debra reported on the success of the Veterans Day parade and our presence in front of City Hall. All agreed that we were able to make more of an impact by being on the side rather than marching in the parade itself.

Debra expressed her dissatisfaction with the bottom of the Commission's banner, which reads "Pathways to Independence". We were able to temporarily replace the slogan with

“Supports Our Troops” for the parade. She indicated that the many veterans saluted as they passed in front of the banner. She indicated that the sign maker on Elm Street could inexpensively create different slogans, depending upon the event that could be removed from the banner after each such event. The Commission agreed to explore this further.

Gil and Janet reported on the event at the Hartford Public Library on 11/18 that brought the Boards and Commissions together to inform Hartford residents of their existence and help. Janet made a successful presentation regarding the Commission and how it can help residents who have disabilities. She also explained how one might become involved in the Commission if they are interested. Cheryl and Debra attended as well. The presentations were well received.

Cheryl reported that she meets with Merva Jackson of AFCAMP at least once a month to try and encourage parents of children with disabilities to get involved in the Commission. To date we have been unsuccessful. While making the report, Merva stopped in for a minute to say she was going to another office and would be right back. She was unable to return before the end of the meeting. It was suggested that the next time Cheryl meets with Merva; she should give the Commission pamphlets to her and ask her to include them in the AFCAMP newsletter.

A discussion ensued regarding the donation made by the Commission to the Connecticut Youth Leadership Project in honor of Dr. Tom Connors. Gil indicated that he needed to get form W9 from that organization before the donation could be made from the Commission. Debra volunteered to contact them on behalf of the Commission to have the form sent so that the donation can be made.

The topic of the Commission note cards was discussed. Several options were discussed regarding the location of the Commission logo, City of Hartford seal and address. It was suggested that a sample of each suggestion be presented to the Commission and we could then decide which one we approve.

Janet reported that Linda Schnitzer is out of intensive care but still hospitalized at UCONN.

Gil reported on and presented a citation drawn up by Mayor Perez to honor the work of Dr. Connors in the field of disability issues. Candace indicated that she would try to contact his widow, Maria and present the citation to her.

#### BUILDING CODE ADVISORY COMMITTEE: No Report

Cheryl reported on the transportation subcommittee for Connect ability. The focus of this subcommittee is to focus on improving connections between Para transit and CT Ttransit to assist individuals with disabilities become employed.

Candace reported that the Disability Collaborative worked on a similar project two years ago. The conclusion was that paratransit drivers and dispatchers would receive more

training and paratransit would look into various options to better connect with CT Transit.

Debra reported on the article in the Hartford Courant the day before in which the Hartford School System was out of compliance with 27 students @HTLA in the Learning Corridor. This occurred in the last academic year. The school system is trying to bring everything into compliance.

#### LEGISLATIVE:

Candace reported extensively on the implications of the Governor's mitigation plan for reducing the State deficit and the effect it will have upon the CACILS. It would have a devastating effect upon all the independent living centers and greatly diminish their services.

Debra made a motion to write a letter to the legislators and Governor expressing our dissatisfaction. She indicated that she would draft such a letter. She also indicated that we should Email pertinent legislators including the heads of the Appropriation Committee and Human Services Committee as well as Speaker Donovan expressing our concerns.

It was decided that Candace would draft an Email message and send it to Janet for review.

#### COMMISSION BYLAWS: Chris

A copy of the bylaws was distributed to the Commissioners with the agenda and last month's minutes. It was suggested that we review them thoroughly and report back with any suggestions or corrections. Chris also pointed out that the bylaws could be changed at any meeting.

#### CSI PROGRAM

This was tabled due to the absence of Captain Taylor.

#### DISABILITY TRAINING FOR CITY COUNCIL:

This was tabled.

#### ADA CERTIFICATION OF CT STATE BUILDING CODES:

Janet called to inquire about a web site that dealt with what was necessary for the States to become certified by the Department of Justice with ADA certification of State building codes. Candace suggested that the Commission submit suggestions to the web site as well as to the State Building Inspector regarding what needs to be done to bring the building codes into compliance.

Further discussion of this topic will take place during the Commission's January meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Zeiner, Secretary